

Speak Up is an easy way for you to participate in Commission decisions.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission often provides an opportunity for the general public to submit written comments on matters pending before the Commission. The Commission encourages members of the public to submit their opinions and draw attention to reference materials in a well-organized manner. Well thought out, focused written comments help Commission staff and the Commissioners identify and analyze relevant information being evaluated on a particular subject matter.

Preparing To Comment

- Select [Open Discussions](#) to see what's open for comment
- Think about what you want to say
 - What decision do you want the Commission to make?
 - How will the issue affect you, your family, your job, your community?
 - What's important to you?
 - Are you trying to stop or delay an action, fix an error, support an issue, offer an alternative?

Ready to begin?

- New Visitor to this website? Return Visitor? Look for **Sign Up** or **Sign In** located in upper right-hand corner of this webpage
- Go to Discussions, select a case of interest, choose a topic(s), *scroll* to the bottom of the page to post your comment
- Answer the question or comment on the issue posted in each topic, be specific, offer options and alternatives
- Please refrain from posting identical comments in any one Discussion; decisions are made based on the record and not the number of times a comment is reiterated
- We do not edit or move comments to another case should you file comments in an unrelated case.
- Duplicate entries may be deleted in consideration of others.
- Need help understanding how dockets are identified? [Check out our docket key!](#)

Comment Period

Comment Periods typically open on the date the Notice is issued and close at 4:30pm CT on the close date (see example: Closes 2014-05-08). Please note that the system could experience a high volume of submissions at the end of a comment period causing a delay in processing. There may be an occasion where a user is unable to access the site or application due to technical problems, thus preventing timely submissions. Comments received after 4:30pm will be considered filed on the next business day. The agency is not responsible for any document not received because of a failure in the user's computer system or delivery mechanisms. We recommend you get your comments in early. New cases may be added daily. Public comment periods for each individual case may open and close frequently with new topics of discussion while under review.

Important: Comments are publicly available, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Please be careful with any information you do not want others to see; **the Commission does not edit or delete submissions including personally identifying information from submissions. We reserve the right to remove any comments we deem unacceptable without notification.**

Then What?

After the comment period closes, all comments are added to the case file record located in [eDockets](#). The Discussion listing is moved to Closed Discussions.

Individuals

A person's written comments should consist of the person's personal knowledge or personal opinions only. A reference document, article or other outside source of information not written by the person commenting is not considered a public comment or part of the person's testimony, but may be referenced in a person's public comment or testimony.

The purpose of soliciting public testimony or written comment is to obtain opinions and local information or knowledge from members of the public about a specific matter before the Commission. When the Commission solicits public input, the Commission is not seeking to obtain newspaper articles, white papers, studies, professional journal articles, or any other form of publication or third-party writing. The Commission is seeking first hand, personal knowledge on how the matter before the Commission will affect the submitter personally. Commenters may cite reference materials in their public comments but must include a list of any reference materials cited in their comments.

Grassroots, Community Groups and Organizations, AstroTurfs

A single, well-reasoned comment may carry more weight than large volumes of identical or near-identical text in form letters, postcards, emails and petitions that impose significant administrative costs while providing little to no real benefit or value. Organizations often encourage its members to submit form letters designed to address issues common to their membership as a tool to voice their opposition or support of a proposal being considered by the Commission. This misguides members into believing that their form letter or email constitutes a "vote" before the Commission.

The Commission welcomes input from such organizations but wants to remind anyone considering initiating or joining a form letter campaign that issues or matters pending before the Commission are not determined by a majority public vote. The Commission bases its decisions on in-depth analysis of the case record. Organizations wishing to indicate their members' wishes should consider submitting a single public comment reflecting the Organization's position.

Comments to Commissioners and Individual Commission Staff

Public comments shall be submitted within the prescribed comment periods via the Commission's on-line public comment [Open Discussions](#) or via mail to Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary, MN Public Utilities Commission. Comments submitted to individual staff members or submitted outside the public comment period may be delayed and unavailable. Comments submitted in any form directly to individual Commissioners may constitute ex parte Communications and are not permitted or considered in deciding a case unless expressly allowed by law.

Department of Commerce – Energy Facilities Permitting Solicitation of Comments

The Department of Commerce – Energy Facilities Permitting (DOC EFP) solicits public comments to aid in identifying issues and concerns for development of environmental review documents and report to the Commission. Please see the [Department of Commerce's](#) website for further information on open comment periods. Direct questions on DOC EFP comment periods to raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us or 651-296-7588.

General Information on Public Participation

Inquiries regarding general procedures on how to participate in Public Utilities Commission proceedings including submitting written comments in a Commission docket, please contact the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office at consumer.puc@state.mn.us or 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782. Public comments are not

accepted at this email address. Commission documents can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call the Commission through Minnesota Relay at 1- 800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.

Any communications with individual commissioners on material issues in matters pending before the Commission may constitute a prohibited ex parte communication [Minn. Stat. §216a.037]. If you wish to comment on the record on a pending matter, do not contact individual commissioners but instead submit your comments by selecting a "[Discussion](#)."